

**ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD MEETING
1300 W. WASHINGTON STREET, PHOENIX AZ
APRIL 23, 2009
MINUTES**

Board Members Present:

Reese Woodling, Chairman
Tracey Westerhausen, Vice Chairwoman
William Scalzo
Arlan Colton
Larry Landry
William Cordasco
Mark Winkleman

Staff Members Present:

Jeanette Hall, Chief, Human Resources, ASP
Susan Laurence, Recruitment Manager, ADOA
Melissa Espino, Human Resources, ADOA
Debi Busser, Executive Secretary

Attorney General's Office:

Laurie Hachtel, Assistant Attorney General

A. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

Chairman Woodling called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. He stated that the purpose of this meeting is to interview potential candidates for the position of Executive Director. He extended his appreciation to the Human Resources representatives (Ms. Hall, Ms. Laurence, and Ms. Espino) and Ms. Hachtel for everything they have done to make this hiring process a very smooth transition.

B. INTRODUCTIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS AND AGENCY STAFF

The Parks Board and agency staff introduced themselves.

1. **Board Statement** - "As Board members we are gathered to be the stewards and the voice of Arizona State Parks' Mission Statement: Managing and Conserving Arizona's Natural, Cultural, and Recreational Resources, Both In Our Parks and Through Our Partners for the Benefit of the People."

Mr. Cordasco read the Board Statement. He noted that this could very well be his last Parks Board meeting.

Mr. Landry took a point of personal privilege. He stated that while he hasn't known Mr. Cordasco very long, he can't thank him enough for advocating his vision and hard work with a natural resources agency that coordinates with public and private and federal agencies in his work on the Blue Ribbon Task Force. He commended Mr. Cordasco and thanked him.

Chairman Woodling stated that, what he knows of Mr. Cordasco and the Babbitt Ranches, he's done a lot of wonderful conservation work there, including conservation easements, protecting open space, etc. He echoes Mr. Landry's comments.

Chairman Woodling called for a motion to go into Executive Session.

Mr. Landry made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session. Mr. Cordasco seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The Board went into Executive Session at 10:14 a.m.

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Upon a public majority vote, the Board may hold an Executive Session which is not open to the public for the following purposes:

- 1. To discuss or consider employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salary, discipline or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of any public body pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03.A.1. This is for the position of Executive Director.**

- a. Interview the Following Candidates for the Position of Executive Director, Arizona State Parks**

- 1) 10:15-10:45 a.m. - Ms. Reneé Bahl**

BREAK

- 2) 11:00-11:30 a.m. - Mr. Rafael Payan**

BREAK

- 3) 11:45-12:15 p.m. - Mr. Jay Ream**

BREAK

LUNCH – 12:15-1:00 p.m.

- b. Receive Presentations from Candidates**

- 1) 1:00-1:30 p.m. - Mr. Jay Ream**
- 2) 1:30-2:00 p.m. - Mr. Rafael Payan**
- 3) 2:00-2:30 p.m. - Ms. Reneé Bahl**

- c. Discuss Candidates' Interviews and Presentations**

Chairman Woodling reconvened the Public Session at 12:42 p.m.

Chairman Woodling called for a Recess in order for the Board to have lunch at 12:42 p.m.

Chairman Woodling reconvened the Executive Session at 1:04 p.m.

Mr. Landry made a motion to go back into Executive Session. Mr. Scalzo seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The Board went into Executive Session at 1:05 p.m.

Chairman Woodling reconvened the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

D. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

1. Determine Final Candidate(s) – The Board may discuss the Candidates and determine their choice for the new Arizona State Parks Executive Director.

Mr. Landry stated that this Board has had a long and extensive search for the position of Executive Director. We have had assistance from our own staff, the Department of Administration, and the Attorney General's Office. He would like this information passed on to the appropriate supervisors of these people.

Mr. Landry stated that each candidate for this position did extensive written questions and responses. The Subcommittee, consisting of three Board members, interviewed each candidate for about an hour each with the same eight questions. The Subcommittee recommended three finalists to the Board. The Board spent most of today interviewing the final candidates and receiving presentations from them. There is a sense that all three can do the job.

Board Action

Mr. Landry: I move that the Arizona State Parks Board offer the job of Executive Director to Renée Bahl at a salary level at the top of the range of \$142,811.55 and that the Board authorize its Chairman to execute the will of the Board and make such verbal offer to Ms. Bahl.

Mr. Scalzo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Mr. Winkleman Absent.

Candidates Payan and Ream entered the room at this time.

Chairman Woodling stated that Mr. Landry made a motion, seconded by Mr. Scalzo, and voted on unanimously by the Board to make a verbal offer to Renée Bahl for the position of Executive Director. He stated that he wanted Mr. Payan and Mr. Ream to hear this directly from him as Chairman of the Board. He added that he couldn't thank them enough for their applications and their willingness to go through the interview process. He knows it was very hard on both of them. This Board deliberated long and hard on the three candidates. He thanked them both for applying.

E. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None of the public assembled in the room wished to address the Board.

Chairman Woodling noted that three members of the Board cannot attend the May 15 meeting. We are very close to losing a quorum at this point. He requested the Board members to look at another date they could be present, perhaps in June.

Mr. Landry stated he believes one of the issues that is very pressing is that of the Heritage Fund grants. He would be willing to meet early next week or any day next week. He unfortunately cannot be here on May 15. This is an issue where the Board should all be present. He is out of town the first week in May. This meeting might take as much as half a day. Whenever it is, it is a priority and he is uncomfortable waiting until June.

After comparing schedules, Chairman Woodling called for the next meeting to be held on Thursday, May 28, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

F. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

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APPROVED:

Reese Woodling, Chairman